

2025 State Coordinator Survey Findings

McKinney-Vento State Coordinators assessed their most urgent needs and priorities.

Comprehensive Data Analysis

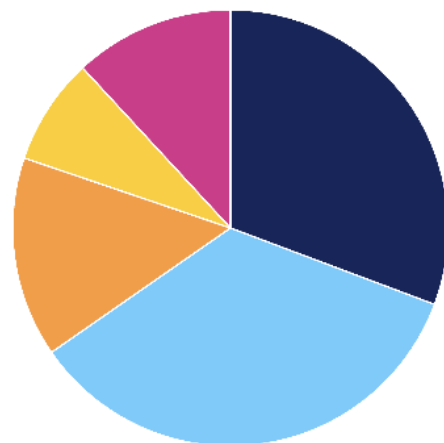
Executive Summary

In Spring 2025, NAEHCY surveyed McKinney-Vento State Coordinators to assess implementation challenges, technical assistance needs, and professional development priorities. With state coordinators responding from diverse geographic regions and student population sizes, this survey provides valuable insights into current McKinney-Vento implementation nationwide. This internal document expands upon the one-page summary to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the survey findings.

Respondent Demographics

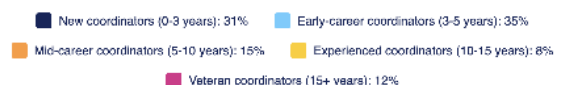
Experience Level:

- 31% - New coordinators (0-3 years)
- 35% - Early-career (3-5 years)
- 15% - Mid-career (5-10 years)
- 8% - Experienced (10-15 years)
- 12% - Veteran (15+ years)



State Homeless Student Population:

- 58% - Small states (<20,000 students)
- 35% - Medium states (20,000-70,000)
- 8% - Large states (>100,000)



Analysis: Two-thirds of respondents have been in their roles for less than 5 years, highlighting a significant proportion of relatively new state leadership. The

predominance of small states in the respondent pool suggests that challenges facing states with fewer identified homeless students are well-represented.

Technical Assistance Needs: Detailed Findings

State Coordinators rated how frequently they receive requests for assistance across 14 key implementation areas, using a scale from "Requested all the time - my state's most pressing topic" to "Never requested."



Top Areas Ranked as "Most Pressing" or "Frequently Requested":

1. McKinney-Vento Transportation (96%)
 - 73% of states ranked this as their "most pressing topic"
 - 23% of states cited it as "frequently requested"
 - Transportation challenges were most acute in small states (80% ranked as "most pressing")
2. Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (92%)
 - 38% of states ranked this as their "most pressing topic"
 - 54% of states cited it as "frequently requested"
 - 100% of large states ranked this as their "most pressing topic"
3. Identification and Enrollment (85%)
 - 31% of states ranked this as their "most pressing topic"
 - 54% of states cited it as "frequently requested"
 - More commonly cited by small and medium-sized states

4. Attendance and Absenteeism (65%)

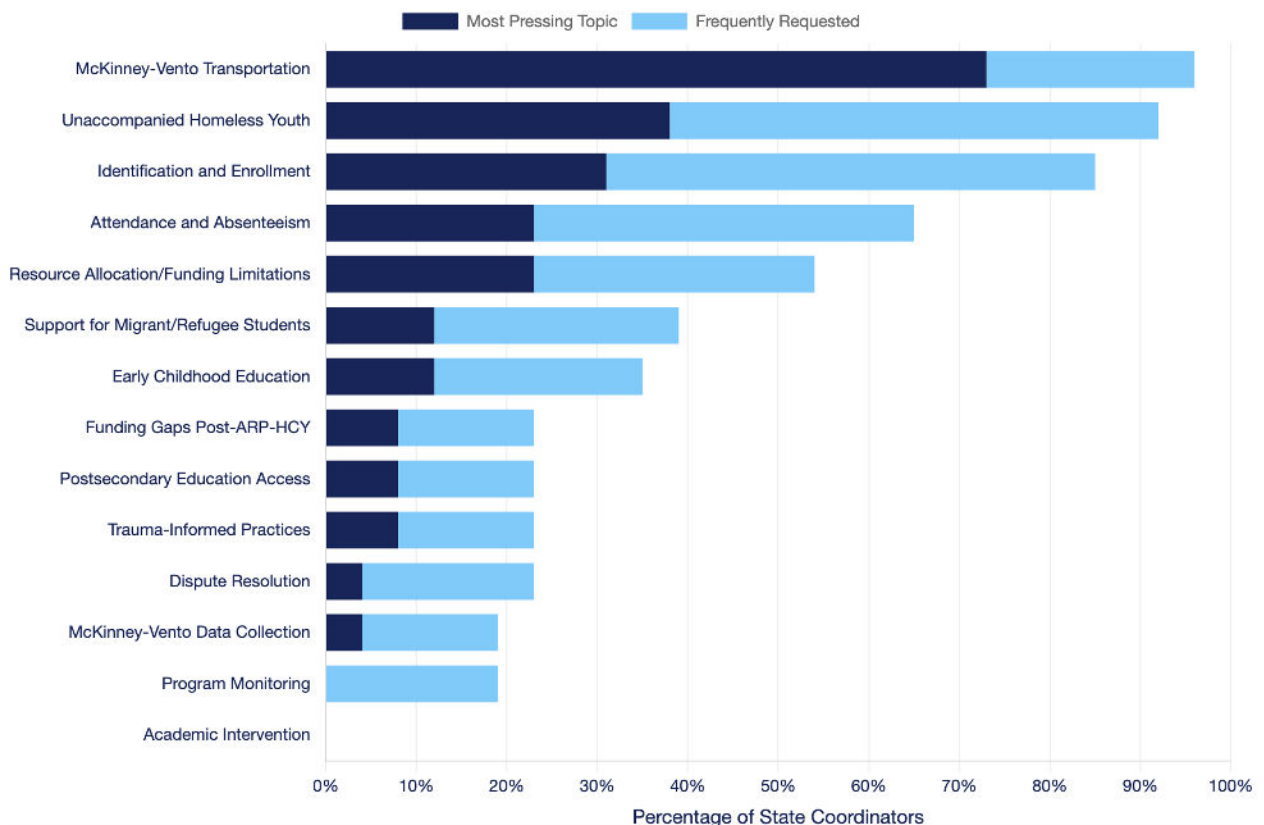
- 23% of states ranked this as their "most pressing topic"
- 42% of states cited it as "frequently requested"
- Post-pandemic concern evident across state sizes

5. Resource Allocation/Funding Limitations (54%)

- 23% of states ranked this as their "most pressing topic"
- 31% of states cited it as "frequently requested"
- Particularly significant for small states with limited staff capacity

Least Frequently Requested Technical Assistance:

- Academic Intervention (0% cited as "most pressing" or "frequently requested")
- Program Monitoring (19% cited as "most pressing" or "frequently requested")
- Funding Gaps Post-ARP-HCY (23% cited as "most pressing" or "frequently")

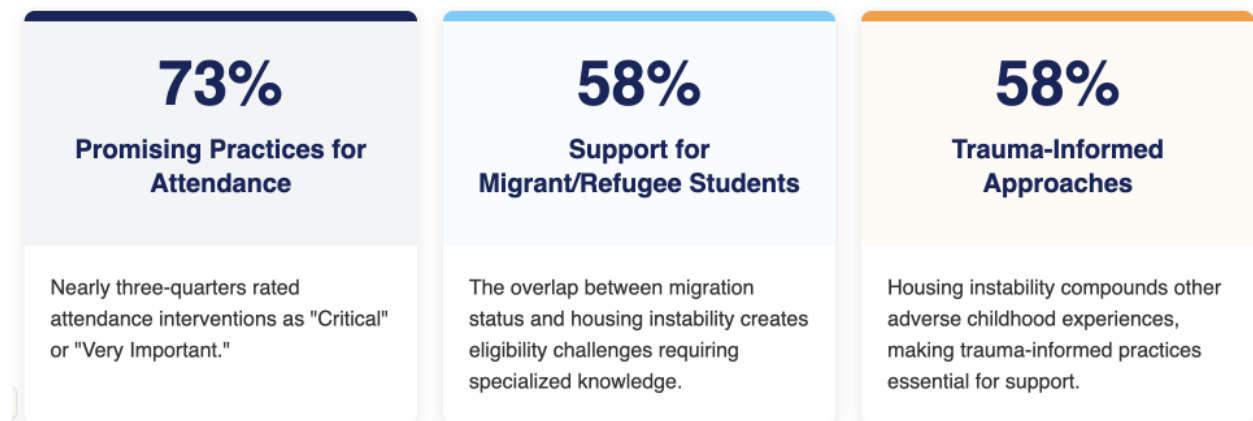


Analysis: Transportation continues to be the persistent, dominant challenge in McKinney-Vento implementation nationwide. The high ranking of unaccompanied youth issues reflects the complex legal, emotional, and academic challenges these

students face. The consistent prioritization of identification and enrollment suggests that many districts still struggle with the fundamental first step of the McKinney-Vento implementation process.

Professional Development Priorities: Detailed Findings

State Coordinators rated the importance of 11 professional development topics for McKinney-Vento stakeholders in their states on a 5-point scale from "Critical - this is a must" to "Not important."



Top Professional Development Priorities (Rated "Critical" or "Very Important"):

1. Promising Practices to Address Attendance and Absenteeism (73%)
 - 46% of states ranked this as "Critical"
 - 27% of states ranked it as "Very Important"
 - Directly aligns with technical assistance needs
2. Support Strategies for Migrant and/or Refugee Students (58%)
 - 15% of states ranked this as "Critical"
 - 42% of states ranked it as "Very Important"
 - Emerging area of concern as migration patterns shift
3. Trauma-Informed Support (58%)
 - 27% of states ranked this as "Critical"
 - 31% of states ranked it as "Very Important"

- Recognition of compounded trauma experienced by homeless students

4. Data Analysis and Program Effectiveness (54%)

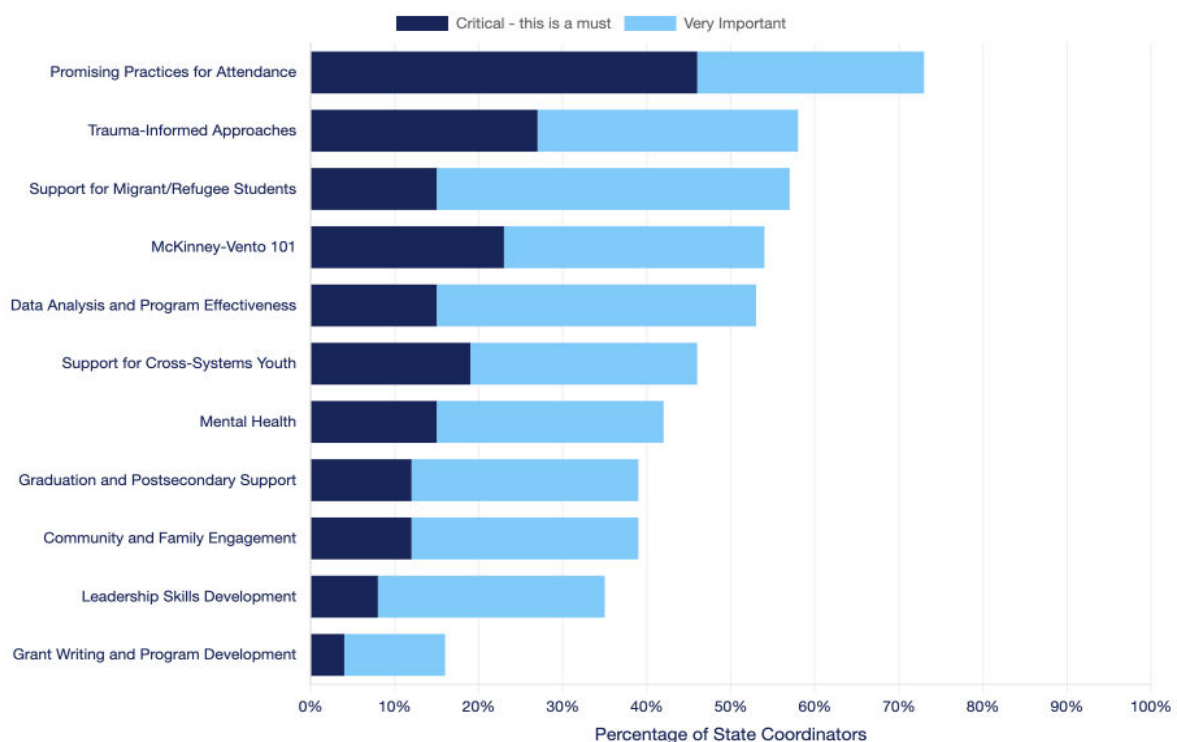
- 15% of states ranked this as "Critical"
- 38% of states ranked it as "Very Important"
- Growing emphasis on evidence-based approaches

5. McKinney-Vento 101 (54%)

- 23% of states ranked this as "Critical"
- 31% of additional states ranked it as "Very Important"
- Similar priority for both new (53%) and experienced (56%) coordinators

Lowest Professional Development Priorities:

- Grant Writing and Program Development (15% rated as "Critical" or "Very Important")
- Leadership Skills Development (35% rated as "Critical" or "Very Important")



Analysis: The emphasis on attendance interventions aligns with both post-pandemic recovery efforts and the core mission of educational continuity. The high ranking of support for migrant/refugee students highlights an emerging intersection of mobility challenges. The need for trauma-informed approaches demonstrates growing recognition of the social-emotional impacts of housing instability.

Implementation Barriers: Detailed Analysis

Several key implementation barriers emerged from the open-ended responses and pattern analysis of the survey data:

1. Staff Turnover and Capacity Limitations

- "We estimate liaison turnover is about 30 new liaisons out of 174 per year" (Kentucky)
- 23% of states specifically requested "McKinney-Vento 201" or advanced courses for experienced staff

2. Resource Allocation and Funding Limitations

- 54% of states cited resource allocation and funding limitations as a pressing or frequent concern
- States report difficulty maintaining transportation solutions with limited funding
- Multiple coordinators expressed concern about staffing and resource constraints

3. Cross-System Coordination Challenges

- "McKinney-Vento and Special Education Resources and Services" emerged as a specific need
- Support for cross-systems youth (foster care and homeless intersections) rated high priority
- Rural districts reported particular difficulty with coordinating limited community resources

4. Rural Implementation Issues

- "Community support in rural district, rural like less than 2000 people" (Wyoming)

- Transportation in geographically large, sparsely populated areas cited repeatedly
- Limited access to trauma-informed mental health services in rural communities

5. Response Time for Technical Assistance

- Need for "resources for answers when NCHE and OESE take too long to respond to critical issues"
- Several states reported challenges with time-sensitive eligibility determinations
- Multiple requests for consolidated guidance resources that can be accessed immediately

Analysis: These implementation barriers reveal underlying systemic challenges that affect McKinney-Vento implementation across states. The combination of high staff turnover, resource constraints, and increasingly complex student needs creates a particularly challenging implementation environment that merits attention from federal partners.

State Size Correlations

Survey results revealed distinct patterns based on state size and homeless student population:

Small States (<20,000 homeless students):

- 80% cited transportation as their top challenge
- 100% ranked transportation as either "most pressing" or "frequently requested"
- More likely to report capacity limitations and resource constraints
- Higher need for basic training due to liaison turnover in small districts
- 67% rated support for cross-systems youth as a high priority
- Rural implementation challenges prominently featured

Medium States (20,000-70,000 students):

- More even distribution of resources needs across categories
- Most diverse states in terms of state coordinator experience
- Transportation slightly less of a critical issue

Large States (>70,000 students):

- Uniquely reported Early Childhood Education (100%) and McKinney-Vento Data Collection and Submission (100%) as high frequency requests
- Higher prioritization of systems coordination approaches

Small States fewer than 20,000 homeless students	<i>More emphasis on basic training needs:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">📊 Higher prioritization of McKinney-Vento 101 (33.3% rate as critical)➕ Focus on cross-systems youth and foster care (40% rate as critical)
Medium States 20,000-70,000 homeless students	<i>Most diverse in needs and experience:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">≈ Transportation less overwhelmingly critical than in small or large states⚖️ Highest percentage of new coordinators (50% with 0-3 years) and highest percentage of very experienced coordinators (25% with 15+ years)
Large States 100,000+ homeless students	<i>Uniquely report high frequency of requests for:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">📊 Early Childhood Education (100%)📊 McKinney-Vento Data Collection and Submission (100%)

Analysis: The variation in priorities by state size illustrates how McKinney-Vento implementation challenges differ based on scale, geography, and capacity. While transportation and unaccompanied youth concerns remains a universal challenge, the specific implementation barriers differ significantly based on state capacity, geography, and student population – suggesting the potential value of size-specific technical assistance approaches.

Regional Professional Development Interest

When asked about their interest in regional NAEHCY-sponsored professional development:

- 19% - "I wouldn't miss it"
- 46% - "Highly likely" to participate
- 31% - "Likely to participate sometimes"
- 4% - "Not sure/may or may not participate"
- 0% - "Unlikely" to participate

Analysis: The overwhelming interest in regional professional development (96% expressing some level of interest) indicates strong demand for additional training opportunities. However, several coordinators noted funding limitations and travel bans that might prevent in-person attendance, suggesting a need for hybrid or virtual options.

Engagement Preferences

State Coordinators expressed interest in multiple forms of NAEHCY engagement:

- 77% - Serving on a State Coordinators' Focus Group
- 69% - Presenting at the annual NAEHCY conference
- 46% - Presenting at regional professional development sessions
- 35% - Being highlighted in a feature story about their state

Analysis: The high interest in active participation demonstrates that State Coordinators view NAEHCY as a valuable platform for knowledge sharing and professional growth. The willingness to serve on focus groups represents a significant opportunity for gaining ongoing input from this key stakeholder group.

Communication Preferences

When asked about preferred communication from NAEHCY:

- 27% - Monthly updates specifically for State Coordinators
- 31% - Happy with current all-stakeholder newsletter
- 35% - Want both State Coordinator updates AND all-stakeholder newsletter
- 4% - Desire more frequent than monthly communication

Analysis: The majority (62%) of respondents expressed interest in State Coordinator-specific communications, suggesting a desire for information tailored to their unique implementation context and responsibilities.

Conference Attendance Plans

Regarding attendance at the 2025 NAEHCY Conference in Dallas:

- 58% - Plan to attend in person
- 8% - Plan to submit session proposals
- 23% - Undecided between in-person or virtual attendance
- 4% - Plan to attend virtually
- 19% - Uncertain about attendance
- 0% - Not attending

Notable: Some state coordinators noted potential travel restrictions, including one who specifically mentioned: "Federal travel ban may impact attendance for 2025 NAEHCY Conference. DC currently has a freeze on all travel."

Key Takeaways

1. **Transportation Crisis Persists:** Nearly all State Coordinators (96%) identify transportation as their most pressing or frequently requested technical assistance topic, making it the clear top priority for focused intervention.
2. **Unaccompanied Youth Need Attention:** With 92% of states reporting frequent or constant requests for assistance with unaccompanied youth issues, this population requires specialized support resources and targeted federal guidance.
3. **Post-Pandemic Attendance Recovery:** The high prioritization of attendance interventions (73%) reflects ongoing challenges in re-engaging students experiencing homelessness after pandemic disruptions.
4. **System Fragmentation Creates Barriers:** Cross-system coordination challenges between McKinney-Vento, special education, foster care, and migrant education create significant implementation barriers that require intentional bridge-building.
5. **Staff Turnover Undermines Progress:** High liaison turnover rates necessitate continuous basic training while also creating demand for advanced professional development for experienced staff, stretching limited resources.
6. **Rural Implementation Disparities:** Smaller, rural districts face disproportionate challenges in transportation logistics, community resource coordination, and

maintaining adequate program staffing.

7. **Resource Allocation Challenges:** With 54% of states reporting resource allocation and funding limitations as pressing concerns, sustainable program funding remains a critical implementation issue.
8. **Migrant/Refugee Intersection Growing:** The emphasis on support strategies for migrant and refugee students (58%) highlights an emerging area requiring specialized technical assistance.
9. **Trauma-Informed Approaches Essential:** The prioritization of trauma-informed support (58%) reflects growing recognition of the complex emotional and psychological needs of students experiencing homelessness.
10. **State Coordinators Seeking Engagement:** The strong interest in participation (77% willing to join focus groups) demonstrates State Coordinators' commitment to collaboration and program improvement.